**PRAS MICHEL**

Pras Michel, or Pras, is a prolific artist whose career spans over twenty years. He is best known as a founder of the Fugees, a Hip Hop group featuring fellow recording artists Wyclef Jean and Lauryn Hill. The Fugees achieved historic success in 1996 with their sophomore album, *The Score*, which reached multi-platinum status by selling more than 20 million copies. Pras’s musical accolades include two Grammys, a Billboard Award, many Brit Awards, a World Music Award, a Top of The Pops Award, and a Video Music Award.

Pras is an activist, advocate, and philanthropist. In 2006, he created *Skid Row, Los Angeles*, a documentary account of his nine-days posing as a both anonymous and homeless panhandler in downtown Los Angeles. Using a hidden camera, Pras captured the reality of homelessness to raise awareness about the plight of the poor. *Skid Row, Los Angeles* received acclaim from critics. Pras created the non-profit organization, The PrAsperity Project, as a result of his making *Skid Row, Los Angeles*. The PrAsperity Projectbrings aid to impoverished communities in Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and the Bahamas.

Organizations and governments all over the world have recognized Pras’s humanitarianism. Lord Griffin of the British Parliament requested his involvement in Haiti's post-earthquake advancement discussion. The American Cancer Society honored him with the California Spirit Award as a Next Generation Leader. The President of Seychelles invited Pras to attend the nation’s third-annual Carnival. He even received a letter of recognition for his milestone record breaking sales from the late Princess Diana.

Pras’s interests include acting as well. He has starred in *Mystery Men*, *Turn It Up*, *Higher Ed,* and *Go For Broke,* for which he was also a producer.

Pras, born Prakazrel Samuel Michel, was born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in New Jersey. He cultivated an early interest in music; he met Lauryn Hill when he was fifteen, and Pras introduced Lauryn to Wyclef Jean in 1988. The three of them formed a musical group called the Tranzlator Crew. The group soon changed its name to The Fugees, as a tribute to the Haitian diaspora in the United States. Pras attended Rutgers College and Yale University, pursuing a double major in Philosophy and Psychology, while the Fugees recorded their first album *Blunted on Reality.*

Currently, Pras serves on Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney’s Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. He spends most of his time between New York, California, Florida, and Haiti.

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